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commission. A depreciation account as a part of the operating expense must be provided for, "to which shall be charged monthly, crediting the depreciation reserve, an amount equal to one-twelfth of the estimated annual depreciation of the tangible capital in the service of the utility." "Reasonableness" is the standard for measuring rates. To determine a reasonable rate, two controlling factors are involved, particularly in making freight rates—cost and classification. With respect to bond regulation, the commission authorizes and exercises strict supervision over all issues. Experience in Wisconsin prefers state to local control of utilities. The primary argument favoring this opinion is the confusion that would result from a decentralized authority.

That the utility laws have been a success, goes without question. Inestimable effectiveness, according to the author, has been lent to the Wisconsin law by the publicity requirement. Under this provision the public is taken into the full confidence of the commission. The author believes there will be a future of great service for the state commission. He predicts a rapid increase in the number of utilities, municipally owned, for which plants the commission will perform the function of "a great clearing house of information." The state commissions, found necessary from an economic standpoint, are rendering invaluable service and are daily proving the justification for their existence by indiscriminate fair treatment to capital and consumer.

F. W. B.

University of Pennsylvania.

Municipal Year Book of the City of New York, 1915. Pp. 155. Price, 15 cents.
New York: Municipal Reference Library, 1915.

SHAMBAUGH, BENJ. F. (Ed.). *Applied History* (Vol. II). Pp. xx, 689. Price, \$3.00. Iowa City: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1914.

The second volume of the Iowa Applied History Series presents another valuable symposium in the field of contemporary legislation. In 1912 the State Historical Society of Iowa published Volume I comprising a series of monographic studies in the political, economic, and social history of the Commonwealth. These contributions to current legislation were in the nature of briefs of the more exhaustive researches being made and authorized by the Historical Society. The purpose of this series, edited by Mr. Benjamin F. Shambaugh, Professor of Political Science in the State University of Iowa and Superintendent of the State Historical Society is to facilitate the work of legislation in the state by performing the function of legislative research.

The ten papers comprising the present volume are as follows: Reorganization of State Government by Mr. Horack, Home Rule by Mr. Patton, Direct Legislation by Mr. Van der Zee, Equal Suffrage by Mr. Horack, Selection of Public Officials by Mr. Peterson, Removal of Public Officials by Mr. Patton, The Merit System, by Mr. Van der Zee, Social Legislation by Mr. Briggs, Child Labor Legislation by Mr. Haynes, and Poor Relief Legislation by Mr. Gillin. These studies are important not merely from a local point of view but should be essentially interesting to every state, in that they mark off in a definite way the stages through which we have progressed and the goal toward which we are advancing.

The source material and references will be found valuable aids in furthering work of similar character in other states.

F. W. B.

YOUNG, JAMES T. *The New American Government and Its Work*. Pp. xi, 663. Price, \$2.25. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1915.

Since the appearance of Professor Beard's volume on American Government and Politics which has come to be recognized as the standard treatise for use as a text with college classes in American Government, no work has appeared of such interest and importance to the teachers of this subject as the above volume prepared by Professor Young. The former volume deals particularly with the constitutions and framework, as well as the political parties of state and federal governments, and includes a brief discussion of local and municipal government, whereas the latter omits the historic background and starts at once with an analysis of the organization and functions of the American federal government. Constitutions and governmental framework are very briefly considered. For example, the constitution, as well as the executive, legislative and judicial departments of the state, are treated in a short section of forty pages. In place of the discussion in detail of constitutions and government departments consideration is given to the functions performed by government, the scope of governmental power as determined by court decisions, and the recent acts of Congress and the state legislatures. Special emphasis is accorded to the regulation and control of business by legislation, and by judicial decisions.

A noteworthy feature of Dr. Young's work is his treatment of the state at work under the headings: Business Protection and Regulation, Labor, Education, Health, Charities and Corrections, Highways and Finances. In these chapters the present activities of state governments are described in a manner which sets a new standard for teachers in treating American state government. Matters of present public controversy such as the radical and conservative doctrines as to the constitution, the relation between nation and state in the regulation of commerce, the direct primary and the weaknesses of judicial procedure are discussed in a fair and impartial manner. The material presented is systematically arranged and given in such form as to be readily comprehensible to beginners in the subject. Each of the chapters is concluded with a few well-chosen references and extended lists of questions for those who need the aid of this sort of mechanical device.

One of the apparent objections to the volume is to be found in the lack of due proportion—a very necessary requirement for a successful textbook. The extraordinary emphasis given to the control and regulation of business and the careful analysis of court decisions relating thereto, although especially interesting and valuable, seems scarcely warranted for the purpose of an elementary treatise for class use. To the average teacher of American government the omission of municipal and local government will be regarded as a serious defect and it is questionable whether the author was wise in stressing so exhaustively certain subjects of his choice as to make it impossible to treat either municipal or local government. An occasional bias is in evidence, such for example as the author's avowed defense of the implied power doctrine which, at least, is open to objections